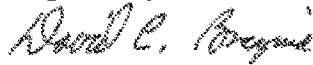


III. REMARKS

Claims 1, 20 and 24 have been amended to more particularly point out that the method includes forming the gap or void to remove a rail defect, but the gap or void does not include the base of the rail and at least a portion of the web remains intact. Antecedency has been corrected in claim 20. Typographical and editing errors have also been corrected in claim 24.

November 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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